



# Maasai International Solidarity Alliance

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY - APRIL 2026

## KEY UPDATES

**HUMAN RIGHTS:** Presidential Commissions Announce More Relocations from Ngorongoro

**CARBON:** More than 100 Comments Submitted to Verra with Concerns Around Soil Carbon Projects

**CONSERVATION:** Maasai Demonstrate Against Evictions on World Heritage Day



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## Foreword



**On 30 April, Maryknoll Sister Mary Vertucci, founder of the Emusoi Center for Maasai girls in Arusha, died peacefully after a brief illness at the Maryknoll Sisters Center in New York. Her love for the Maasai and dedication to the education of girls in Arusha for more than 50 years is an inspiration for all of us. May she rest in peace.**

Sister Mary Vertucci's passing marks the end of a life that quietly transformed generations. At the Emusoi Center in Arusha she founded in 1999, she created more than a place of learning. She built a refuge of possibility for Maasai girls whose futures might otherwise have been limited by circumstance.

With steady conviction, she opened doors to education and dignity often in the face of deep-rooted barriers. Sister Mary was part of the Maryknoll Sisters.

Hundreds of young women carry her legacy forward. They are teachers, nurses, leaders, and voices of change within our communities. The success of every girl who received her support is a testament to her belief that educating a girl is not an act of charity, but an act of justice that begins with an opportunity. Sister Mary devoted her life to ensuring that opportunity was within reach.

Though she has died peacefully, the future she helped shape continues to live and grow. In every Maasai girl who dares to dream, Sister Mary's spirit endures steadfast, guiding, and profoundly alive.



## What We Stand For

### HUMAN RIGHTS

We document cases of unlawful evictions, excessive force, surveillance, censorship, abuse of public office, and discriminatory policies. These reports often come directly from community members, activists, and whistleblowers on the ground. We hold power accountable, we monitor and document Tanzania's government action and inaction that violate our rights. We track policies, decisions, and operations that impact our human rights, land, public resources, civil liberties, and livelihoods.

### NO TO CARBON CREDITS

We call for an immediate five-year moratorium on all soil carbon projects in Maasai rangelands. We are concerned that soil carbon projects are another form of land grabbing disguised as climate solutions. These projects are generating corruption and conflicts over natural resources.

### NO TO COLONIAL CONSERVATION

We call for a decolonial conservation vision, one that is grounded in Indigenous Peoples' rights, social justice and co-existence with nature. Our objective is to promote an alternative to the colonial, fortress, violent and capitalistic conservation model that is imposed on our Maasai community, leading to the alienation of our land.

Our conservation vision highlights the coexistence between the Maasai people, our livestock and wildlife as an alternative to the separation of humans from nature.

### INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY

We demand that overseas funding recognize and promote the positive impact of pastoralism on nature and the economy. A human rights - based approach to economic partnerships, free, prior and informed consent, as well as decolonization are prerequisites for long-term sustainable livelihoods of Maasai and other local communities in Tanzania. We engage in international advocacy to hold accountable actors who are historically or currently responsible for human rights abuses.

### LOCAL MOBILISATION

In the face of mounting threats to the Maasai ancestral lands, livelihoods, and identity, we have risen not with weapons, but with unity, courage, and conviction. MISA is a community-led movement rooted in resistance and determined to defend Maasai ancestral lands from unjust encroachment. Women are at the forefront of our efforts to defend our rights and demand justice.



**UE :**  
Prenex position  
pour mettre fin  
aux expulsions  
des Maasai en  
Tanzanie !

Encouragez les Maasai dans leur lutte  
pour leur droit à vivre sur leurs  
terres ancestrales.

**EU:**  
Stoppt die  
Finanzierung  
von  
kolonialem  
Naturschutz

Stellen Sie sich an die Seite der  
Maasai in ihrem Kampf um die  
eigenes Land.

**EU:**  
Speak up to  
stop evictions  
of the Maasai  
from their  
ancestral lands!

Stand up with the Maasai to  
fight for their rights to live in their  
ancestral lands.

**EU:**  
Stop funding  
colonial  
conservation

Stand up with the Maasai to fight  
for their rights to live in their  
ancestral lands.

# HUMAN RIGHTS





Photo: Screenshot of the livestreamed event on March 12 announcing the Commissions' recommendations.

## Presidential Commissions on Ngorongoro Announce More Relocations

The reports of the two Presidential Commissions were presented publicly on March 12 and received by the President of Tanzania. The reports are still being withheld by authorities from public scrutiny but their content has been officially livestreamed. The recommendations, which the President has committed to implementing, raise serious concerns. The government intends to:

- Continue the large-scale relocation programme to remove Maasai pastoralists from Ngorongoro.

- Abandon the Multiple Land Use Model (MLUM) that enables and protects human-wildlife coexistence.
- Keep the village land that was grabbed in Loliondo to create Pololeti Game Reserve instead of returning it to the people.
- Expand strictly conserved areas to Lake Natron, where no human settlement or grazing will be allowed.



### WATCH:

[Commissions present their findings to the President](#) (Swahili)

### CONTESTED GOVERNMENT CLAIMS:

This [video](#) disseminated during the presentation of the two Commissions report shows how the decision to force Maasai out was already made before the Commissions started their work.



Photo: April 2025 - Maasai of Ngorongoro Conservation Area wait to present their case to the Presidential Commission, which was formed after the protests of August 2024. Credit: MISA

## MISA Categorically Rejects the Recommendations of the Presidential Commissions on Ngorongoro

We strongly reject the reports by the two Presidential Commissions on Ngorongoro. The commissions were designed from the outset to legitimise decisions already taken regarding the resettlement of the Maasai, rather than to seriously examine their concerns. The reports are not credible, as they are based on flawed data, biased assumptions and pre-existing controversial policy documents. The perspectives of the affected population have been largely ignored. We dispute the claim that the Maasai pose a threat to the environment and wildlife. Instead, the Maasai have lived sustainably with nature for generations. At the same time, the reports by the state commissions have failed to acknowledge the negative impacts of tourism and commercial exploitation. The reports acknowledge that the resettlements were not voluntary, but do not address state responsibility and clear human rights violations.

We reject the intended continuation of the relocation. We also condemn the ongoing repression, arrests and propaganda against the Maasai.

We call for an end to all coercive measures and demand the recognition of our land rights. Maasai are not opponents of nature conservation, but its traditional guardians. We will remain on our land. MISA's key demands are:

- No resettlement from ancestral lands.
- Recognition and respect of the right to Free, Prior and Informed consent (FPIC).
- Protection of the Maasai way of life and land rights.
- An end to violence and discrimination
- Genuine dialogue processes instead of state-imposed directives.



### READ:

["Presidential Commissions Rubber Stamp Tanzanian Government's Efforts to Evict Indigenous Maasai from Ngorongoro Conservation Area"](#) | The Oakland Institute

["Maasai Advocacy Group Rejects Ngorongoro Commission Reports, Vows to Resist Relocation"](#) | The Chanzo

["Presidential Commissions in Tanzania recommend mass evictions of Indigenous Maasai from Ngorongoro Conservation Area"](#) | REDD Monitor

["The eviction of Maasai from Ngorongoro"](#) | Hilda Newton

["Ngorongoro Commission Reports Are 'Copy-Paste State Propaganda,' Says Maasai Lawyer"](#) | The Chanzo

["Tanzanie: les défenseurs des droits humains contestent la volonté du gouvernement de déplacer les Massai du Ngorongoro"](#) | RFI (in French)

["Civil Society Groups Reject Ngorongoro Reports, Demand End to Relocations"](#) | The Chanzo



*Photo: Cleared crops in Sakala village in Loliondo.*

## **Ngorongoro District Commissioner Orders Cutting of Crops in Loliondo**

In March, the District Commissioner for Ngorongoro ordered the police, soldiers and militants to invade Sakala village in Loliondo and cut down crops in the farms owned by community members. The communities in Loliondo will suffer from food shortages as they are entirely dependent on crop cultivation for their livelihood following the demarcation of their grazing lands to create the Pololeti Game Reserve.

The farmers are falsely accused of having encroached into the [Loliondo One forest](#) which is owned by the District Council of Ngorongoro. The District Commissioner should have acted on the resolution made by the District Council, a body which is legally recognized as custodian of the said land.

Yet, there is no rule of law in Tanzania. The sources say, there is no resolution passed by the District Council to that effect. The Ward [Councilor](#) of the area has made complaints publicly and accused the District Commissioner for his illegal, inappropriate and irrational decision.



Photo: Residents of Monduli listening to the Prime Minister on 6th March 2026.

## The Prime Minister of Tanzania Declares Disputed Land in Monduli to Remain for Both Grazing and Military Training

The Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Mwigulu Nchemba, has recently responded to the longstanding controversial debate over disputed land in Monduli. The area designated for grazing and military training back in the 1970s by his predecessor, the late Edward Moringe Sokoine, has recently faced challenges.

In 2014, a few non-pastoralists and non-residents falsely claimed to own farms in the area, in an attempt to receive compensation. Alarm was raised by the true residents and pastoralists of Monduli district because compensation would lead to exclusive ownership of the military, contrary to its designation.

During a rally in Mto wa Mbu, the Prime Minister reaffirmed on [6th March 2026](#) that the land would remain for grazing and military training as it was designated by his predecessor. He insisted that the land will remain with multiple land use and cautioned against the construction of any permanent housing.



New York - 24 April, 2026. Discussion on fortress conservation at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

## MISA Defends Maasai Rights at UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York

This year's theme at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) focused on health and territorial interconnectedness, and emphasized that Indigenous Peoples' (IPs) health is inseparable from their lands, waters, environments, and cultures. It is important to recognize and respect Indigenous traditional medicines and healing practices. The Forum also discussed the impacts of conflict and climate change, including the severe impacts of armed conflict and organized crime, displacement, and environmental degradation. The UNPFII highlighted ongoing violations of Indigenous rights, including land dispossession, discrimination, cultural loss, and exclusion from decision-making. A strong emphasis was also placed on ensuring Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) before any projects, policies, or research affecting IPs are approved. New threats were discussed such as carbon credit projects, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the conflation of IPs with local communities in certain policy documents (as in the Convention on Biological Diversity - CBD), which risk undermining Indigenous rights.

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Forum, many reflections also focused on the UNPFII achievements and implementation challenges, including funding limitations. The Forum strongly reminded the world that respecting Indigenous knowledge, rights, self-determination and FPIC is essential for justice, equality and sustainable development.

MISA used the session as a platform to expose the forced evictions of Maasai from their ancestral lands and the harms caused by fortress conservation. Our collective rights as IPs remain central to our identity and survival. Yet, the [Tanzanian delegates](#) denied the existence of IPs in Tanzania, and claimed that the Maasai are new arrivals and immigrants to the country.

It is our firm position that this narrative is misleading, undermines the lived realities of Maasai in Tanzania, erases the historical ties of the Maasai to their land and is designed to undermine our claims to human rights protection. The government uses this narrative to avoid compliance with its obligations associated with the recognition of IPs in the country.



READ: [Land Rights for Better Conservation Outcomes - IPRI](#)



## We Reaffirm Our Indigenous Peoples Status

At the UNPFII, the Tanzanian government once again contested our rights as Indigenous Peoples (IPs) under international law. We Maasai are Indigenous Peoples. Tanzania is a signatory to international human rights conventions and should observe them when acquiring land from Indigenous communities. The African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights characterizes IPs and identifies four communities in Tanzania, including the Maasai, Barabaig, Hadzabe, and Akie, as meeting the characteristics of I Ps.

### These characteristics are:

1. Self-identification as per Article 1.2 of ILO Convention No. 169 and Article 3 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). We Maasai have identified as Indigenous since 1989;
2. Belonging to a non-dominant sector of society due to factors like numerical inferiority, ways of life, social organization, and distinctive cultures. We Maasai meet this criterion;
3. History of severe discrimination in policies and livelihood, which the Tanzanian government cannot deny. Our communal land ownership of natural resources, traditional leadership, and Indigenous knowledge have all been neglected and discriminated against;
4. A land-based culture. Our land use system is disregarded, and our lands are being grabbed. But we are still on the land, and our communal land management practices are alive.

Our lands define our identity. Our knowledge systems, cultures, and governance systems are all rooted in our land. We demand the right to be consulted in the form of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC). We are not asking for legal recognition as a state or for rights over others. We simply request to be treated as people deserving respect.

## UN Experts Urge Transparency and Respect for Indigenous Peoples' Rights in Ngorongoro

Eight Special Rapporteurs have issued a joint statement urging the Government of Tanzania to halt any actions that could lead to forced displacement, and engage in meaningful dialogue with affected communities.

***"The protection of biodiversity and the protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights are not mutually exclusive," the experts said. "Sustainable solutions require both."***

Despite several requests for an official invitation, the Tanzanian government did not issue one to the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples which is why he has not yet been able to visit the country.



**READ:** [Tanzania: UN experts urge transparency and respect for Indigenous Peoples' rights in Ngorongoro | OHCHR](#)



## Tanzania to be Examined in 2026 at Universal Periodic Review Process

In April, MISA made a submission as part of the 4th cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to the UN Human Rights Council for Tanzania's review in 2026. Our submission highlights systematic human rights violations against Maasai communities. The focus is on the ongoing expropriation of land through nature conservation projects, tourism and carbon offset schemes. Particular criticism is levelled at forced evictions and forced resettlements (e.g. through the withdrawal of healthcare, education and water) as well as large-scale land reallocations without the consent of the affected population.

Our report also documents violence by security forces, including arrests, ill-treatment and intimidation, as well as a failure to investigate these incidents. Women and

children are particularly affected, suffering additionally from violence, displacement and restricted access to medical care.

Another key focus is on the role of international actors, who are accused of implementing projects without adequate human rights standards. Our report further criticises the lack of judicial independence and the restrictions on press freedom and civil society engagement in Tanzania.

In conclusion, our submission calls for, amongst other things:

- An immediate end to forced evictions.
- The recognition of Indigenous communities' land rights.
- Genuine participation (FPIC).
- And accountability for state and international actors.

Overall, the submission paints a picture of structural and persistent discrimination against the Maasai and calls for urgent reforms.



## MISA Reaches to UN to Denounce Human Rights Abuses

MISA has made a number of submissions to UN Special Procedures and Human Rights mechanisms, including:

**Submission to the EMRIP Study on “the rights of Indigenous Peoples in conflict and post-conflict situations”:** In this submission, MISA describes the situation of the Maasai in Tanzania as an ongoing structural conflict resulting from historical dispossession, conservation policies, tourism and climate projects. The submission documents forced evictions, militarisation and violence, as well as new causes of conflict arising from CO<sub>2</sub> projects undertaken without the consent of local communities. It also criticises the fact that international actors play a central role in land loss. MISA calls for the recognition of such measures as forms of conflict, the strengthening of Indigenous self-determination, an end to violence, as well as reparations and the return of land.

**Submission to the Call for Inputs by the Working Group’s Report on Peasant Territories on Land and Sea:** As part of a UN process on rural territories, MISA highlights that pastoralist and peasant communities in Tanzania lack sufficient legal recognition of their collective land rights. The submission describes increasing land dispossession through large-scale projects, nature conservation and the privatisation of resources such as water. These developments lead to conflict, poverty and the loss of traditional ways of life. At the same time, the communities’ strategies of resistance are highlighted. Among other things, MISA calls for legal recognition of collective land rights, protection against land grabbing, greater participation and equitable resource use.

**Submission to the Call for inputs by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Historical and Contemporary Forms of Violations against Indigenous Women and Girls’ Reproductive Health and Rights:** In this submission, MISA addresses the situation of Indigenous women, particularly the Maasai. The report shows that reproductive health is closely linked to land rights and way of life. Historical displacements and current land conflicts have destroyed traditional care systems and made access to health services more difficult. Women are particularly affected by long distances to clinics, discrimination, poverty and a lack of culturally appropriate services. MISA calls for, among other things, better healthcare for nomadic communities, recognition of traditional knowledge, protection from violence, as well as data collection and policy reforms.

**Submission to the Call for Inputs by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples “Demarcation, registration and titling of Indigenous Peoples’ lands, territories and resources”:** MISA’s submission criticises the fact that such processes in Tanzania often do not serve to protect these areas, but are instead used to expropriate and reallocate Maasai land, for example for nature conservation, tourism or climate projects. The rights of Indigenous communities are said to be only weakly protected by law, whilst international actors exert considerable influence. The submission calls for the recognition of Indigenous land rights as collective and original rights, genuine participation (FPIC), the return of land, and stronger regulation of state and international actors.



Mounir Satouri, MEP, Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights. Source: <https://www.facebook.com/MounirSatouriUE/>

## EU Human Rights Mission to Tanzania Cancelled

A planned European Parliament human rights mission to Tanzania has been cancelled after the Tanzanian authorities declined to receive the parliamentary delegation. Members of the European Parliament expressed regret over the decision and underlined that the visit was intended to assess the human rights situation, democratic space, and the conditions under which civil society and opposition actors operate in the country.

The cancellation has raised concerns about limited access for independent international scrutiny and comes amid increasing criticism from the European Parliament regarding democratic backsliding, restrictions on fundamental freedoms, and the broader human rights situation in Tanzania.



### READ:

[Human rights MEPs mission to Tanzania cancelled after authorities decline visit](#) | News | European Parliament

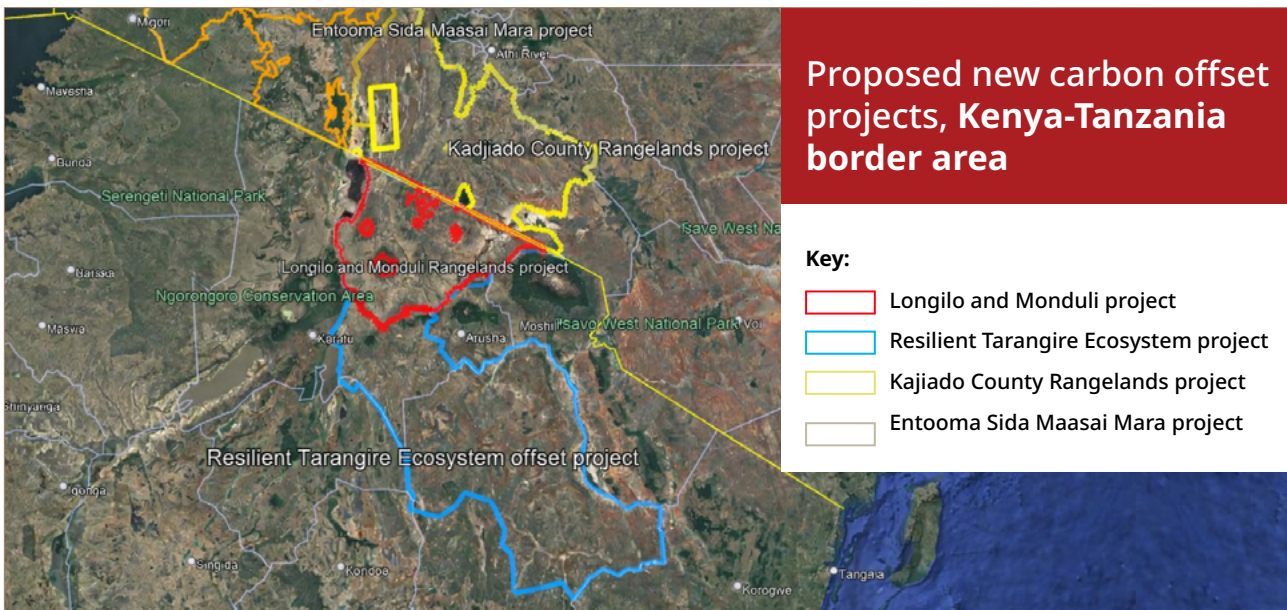
[Tanzania now blocks probe by European MPs](#)

Source: European Parliament Press Room, 7 May 2026



**NO TO CARBON  
CREDITS**





**Proposed new carbon offset projects, Kenya-Tanzania border area**

**Key:**

- Longilo and Monduli project
- Resilient Tarangire Ecosystem project
- Kajiado County Rangeland project
- Entooma Sida Maasai Mara project

**MISA Urges VERRA Not To Certify the Soils for the Future Project in Longido**

MISA urges [Verra](#) NOT to certify the Longido and Monduli Rangeland Carbon Project (project ID #4924) developed by Soils for the Future and Carbon Solve in Tanzania. This proposed project reproduces a model of rangeland carbon offsetting that has already been subject to serious and unresolved criticism. The project is being developed by the same developer responsible for two other very contested projects: the Northern Kenya Grasslands Carbon Project (#1468) and the Kajiado Rangeland Carbon Project (#4714).

We reject these projects for two main reasons. First, the methodology is flawed: additionality claims are dubious, monitoring systems unreliable, carbon leakage is impossible to control in open pastoral systems, and Soil Organic Carbon accounting lacks integrity. Second, these projects have adverse social and governance impacts on pastoralist communities, including the lack of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), no equity in the sharing of benefits as well as detrimental impacts on mobility, communal land management and food security.

Project #4924 proposes to generate large volumes of carbon credits from a complex and highly variable pastoral system using indirect measurement, contested assumptions, and a governance model that raises serious social concerns. These key risks are not incidental; they are structural features of the project design. Given the strong similarities to earlier projects that have already faced significant criticism, it is not sufficient to assume that these issues have been resolved. On the contrary, they remain central and unresolved. In its current form, the project does not provide a credible basis for the issuance of carbon credits and should not be validated under the VCS standard.

Over 100 comments were submitted to Verra, raising concerns about these projects. These comments will soon be made public and shared with the proponents.



**READ:**

[Our joint submission to Verra, together with Survival International](#)

[Why Verra should not certify the Longido and Moduli Rangeland Carbon project in Tanzania](#) (REDD Monitor)



Photo: Eluai villagers explain the situation to Member of European Parliament Carola Rackete in March 2025.

## Eluai Update: Monduli District Director Accepted Termination of Carbon Contract Between Eluai and Soils for the Future

After a long struggle by villagers in Eluai to terminate a dubious carbon contract preposterously entered between the village and the carbon company Soils for the Future (SftF), the fray has finally come to an end after a termination letter was issued by SftF on 27th April 2026. This came following a long meeting held by the District Executive Director (DED) and other District officials with Eluai village leaders, trying to convince them to continue with the contract. Eluai village stood firm in their determination to terminate. In the letter acknowledging termination of the contract, SftF takes note of the “*bride money*” (2 USD/ha) paid to the village and informs them that they will find a better way of handling the amount paid in collaboration with the District authority. The money paid as bride prize in 2024 to the village for accepting the carbon business has been sitting on the account of the village to date and the villagers refused to use it.

## Carbon Resistance by Lesingita Villagers in Longido

The communities in Lesingita village in Longido District continue the fight against carbon business as the village chairperson signed a contract without the full participation of village members. The villagers led by traditional leaders demonstrated to press the leaders to end the carbon contract which they signed with Soils for the Future (SftF) without their consent. Since a community meeting was held in February, 2026 which was attended by over 700 participants including the Longido District Chairperson nothing much has taken place, but the community continues to refuse the carbon contract which was signed by only a few people (in a forged General Assembly meeting of only 56 participants) on behalf of the entire village. While SftF continues to push for engagement, community members and some traditional leaders have committed to the decision of “*no to carbon contracts*” at Lesingita village. The village is stranded as there is no response by the carbon proponent since this complaint was raised at the Village General Assembly.

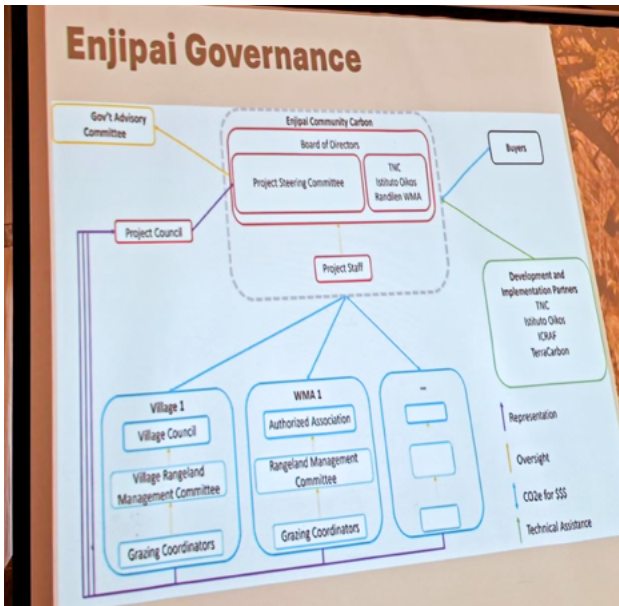


Photo: The Governance Structure of Enjipai Community Carbon Company.

## The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Moves Ahead with Enjipai Community Carbon Company

In April 2026, the Tanzania Nature Conservancy (TNC) extended an invitation for a carbon public meeting regarding the Enjipai Community Rangeland Carbon project. Over 45 participants were invited from Monduli, Longido, Simanjiro, representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, the Vice President office, regional offices, pro-carbon conservation organizations (TNC, TPW, Instituto Oikos, WMA-Enduimet), and local media, especially those in support of this initiative. During this meeting, TNC explained the objectives of forming the Enjipai company and how the community will supposedly be part of this initiative.

Community members especially from Simanjiro District had an opportunity to ask questions in relation to Enjipai and how FPIC is entrenched in the process.

The formal structure of Enjipai Community Carbon company (as shown in the photo above) includes the Board of Directors (Project Steering Committee, TNC, Instituto Oikos, Randilen WMA), the Government Advisory Committee, the Project Council, the Project Staff for Villages (Village Council, Village Registered Management Committee, Grazing Coordinators) and WMAs (AA, Rangeland Management Committee, Grazing Coordinators), the Buyers as well as Development and implementation Partners (TNC, Instituto Oikos, ICRAF, TerraCarbon).

This information created much more confusion to community members, especially those aware of the risks associated with the carbon business. MISA refused to participate in the Enjipai Community Rangeland Carbon Project meeting because we already have a firm position on the subject matter. MISA conducted research on carbon credit projects in January 2025 and followed developments closely since then. It is our position that this project is not viable as per the findings from the field research. It requires more time for project affected communities to be sensitized on the impacts related to the soil carbon project. It also requires solid legal and policy frameworks that protect our communities against abusive contracts. We also anticipate a lot of negative impacts on pastoralist mobility and problems with the project methodology. Therefore, in our report, MISA called for a 5 years moratorium on all soil carbon deals in pastoralists' rangelands in Northern Tanzania. MISA calls on TNC to stop this project to ensure that the rights and livelihood systems of our Indigenous pastoralist communities are not jeopardized.



### READ:

Our research report: [Soil Carbon credits: Another Wave of Land Alienation in Northern Tanzania?](#)  
March 2025.



Photo: Community members protest the Frankfurt Zoological Society. Credit: MISA.

## Frankfurt Zoological Society Ties Community Support to Establishment of New Protected Areas

A communication in the German Parliament recently confirmed that the German conservation organisation Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) ties its community support to the establishment of new protected areas. A German Parliamentarian asked the Government if village/community land had been rezoned for nature conservation.

In their reply, the Government confirmed that through the FZS project new Buffer Zones and Forest Reserves have been created.

In the context of growing critique on FZS's conservation activities around Serengeti National Park, the organisation frames its work as enabling community land rights through Certificates of Communal Land Ownerships (CCROs). On [social media](#), FZS says it is "issuing ownership rights to protect them from further land dispossession" while being silent about the price communities have to pay: giving away control of large chunks of land for conservation and thus dispossessing them.

MISA fundamentally criticises the prominent role of FZS in establishing land use plans. Generally, a private conservation actor should not interfere in such sensitive village/community tasks. On top of it, FZS is a highly problematic actor due to its long standing conflicts with the Maasai, as detailed in the [MISA statement of 1st December 2025](#).



Credit: hramovnick, Shutterstock.

## MISA Submits Consultation on Article 6 Carbon Credits to EU

What are article 6 credits? And should Indigenous Peoples pay the price? Under the Paris Agreement, article 6 allows countries to trade carbon credits to meet their targets. The EU used to commit to meeting its climate goals but since the 2026 revised Climate Law, it has introduced “flexibilities” to protect the EU competitiveness.

The EU is currently developing a legal framework to facilitate the use of carbon credits to meet its climate target. Here is why we think it is a bad idea:

- Reliance on “Article 6 credits” will increase pressure on Indigenous lands and livelihoods and lead to further human rights violations and land insecurity.

- It risks shifting mitigation responsibilities from the Global North to the Global South, while local communities bear the social, environmental and human rights consequences.
- It will delay urgently needed domestic emissions reductions in Europe and perpetuate market-based solutions that commodify nature instead of addressing structurally harmful economic models.
- Based on evidence of land loss, human rights violations and green grabbing, MISA considers EU engagement in carbon credit markets to pose unacceptable risks for affected communities.



### READ:

[MISA feedback on the EU consultation process on Article 6](#)

[UNFCCC carbon trading could undermine global climate action](#)

[The carbon land grab: A debate between GRAIN and the Land Matrix](#)



**WATCH:** [Training videos on carbon credits developed by Forest Peoples Program](#)



**NO TO COLONIAL  
CONSERVATION**





Photo: World Heritage Day Demonstration on April 18 in Ngorongoro. Credits: MISA.

## Maasai of Ngorongoro Demonstrate Against Evictions on World Heritage Day, 18 April

In 1959, Maasai were evicted from [Serengeti](#). We were promised never to be bothered again. In 1975, Maasai were again evicted from the Ngorongoro crater. In 1979, [Ngorongoro](#) was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, without our Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). Serengeti was inscribed in 1981, again without our consent. Living in a World Heritage Site could be a source of pride but it is a source of problems.

The label attracts tourists. The need to protect Ngorongoro World Heritage Site, its ecosystem, its wildlife, is used as a justification to force people out. The World Heritage Status is being used against us, without us. We are not considered as legitimate and primary rights-holders of Ngorongoro. Ngorongoro, to them, belongs to tourists, conservationists, and the world.

On April 18, we called on [UNESCO](#), [IUCN](#) and the World Heritage Committee:

- To restate the importance of the Multiple Land Use Model, which is key to our survival and coexistence with wildlife.
- To clearly and publicly state that Indigenous Peoples' rights must be upheld.
- To insist that the various Indigenous communities of Ngorongoro are the legitimate custodians and rights-holders of this land.
- To demand that the so-called voluntary relocation programme be terminated.

We believe that solutions can be found to this crisis, only if the views of the people are listened to, in line with our right to FPIC. We reiterate that Pololeti Game Reserve was grabbed illegally and should under no circumstance be legalized under the pretext of becoming a World Heritage Site as suggested in the 2025 IUCN Serengeti Outlook Assessment Report.

The continued existence of Ngorongoro as a World Heritage Site should be conditional to the respect of the rights of the Indigenous communities in Ngorongoro. If respect for human rights and coexistence cannot be ensured, UNESCO should delist Ngorongoro as a World Heritage Site.



Photo: Community members protest against UNESCO on World Heritage Day 2026. Credit: MISA.

## MISA Calls on UNESCO to Reject Relocation

We believe that UNESCO is complicit in the historical and ongoing injustice faced by the Maasai community. In the [livestreamed report](#), the Presidential Commission mentioned UNESCO several times to justify its so-called “voluntary relocation” programme. We are highly concerned by the measures announced by the Presidential Commissions.

As preparations are being made towards the World Heritage Committee (WHC) meeting in July in Korea, we call on UNESCO, IUCN and ICOMOS to:

- Restate the importance of the Multiple Land Use Model.
- Clearly state that Indigenous Peoples’ rights must be upheld.
- Accept the various Indigenous communities of Ngorongoro as the legitimate custodians and rights-holders of this land.
- Terminate the so-called voluntary relocation programme.
- Listen to and reflect the solutions and views of the people, in line with our right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

- Undertake its own independent and critical assessment of the environmental and human rights impacts of the uncontrolled tourism expansion and investments in the area. Tourism interests are directly responsible for the evictions. This assessment should look into how many visitors and which forms of tourism the NCA can sustainably accommodate, given that tourism-related lifestyles significantly contribute to environmental degradation, and,
- To openly endorse the [Maasai Conservation Vision](#) and create conditions for our Vision to be discussed, endorsed and implemented.

If respect for human rights and coexistence cannot be ensured, UNESCO should delist Ngorongoro as a World Heritage Site. The continued existence of Ngorongoro as a World Heritage Site should be conditional to the respect of Indigenous communities in Ngorongoro as legitimate and primary rights-holders of Ngorongoro.



### READ:

Survival International campaign: <https://svlint.org/NCAWA>

[Wildlife and humans thriving in Unesco-protected sites](#) (The Guardian)

[An ancient crater, Masai warriors and Africa’s Tourism Inc](#)



## MISA Welcomes World Heritage Centre's and Advisory Bodies' Conclusion That There Should Be "no pressure to leave"

The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in their conclusions in 2025, stated that: "It is therefore important that the State Party continue taking a multiple dimensional approach to land management, and that any relocation of local communities from the property to new areas is implemented on a voluntary basis. This is essential, as it is clear that there are residents who are opposed to relocation, and thus there should be no pressure on them to leave. Thus, it remains the view of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies that the management of the property, developed in consultation with stakeholders and rightsholders, should ensure a continued multiple land use approach with a clear human rights-based approach".

We welcome this analysis and firm stance in favour of the multiple land use model. However, we believe that the World Heritage Center and its advisory bodies should go further and discourage any form of relocation. In an authoritarian regime, voluntary relocation does not exist. Putting in place a relocation programme with allocated budget, implementation targets and empty houses that need to be filled, inevitably creates pressure on people to leave. All forms of relocation, including so-called voluntary ones, should be rejected.

## UNESCO Reactive Monitoring Mission Still Waiting For Official Invitation

UNESCO has been awaiting the formal invitation by the government of Tanzania to carry out its reactive monitoring mission, as was decided at the World Heritage Committee meeting of 2024. UNESCO has the opportunity to draw up the terms of reference (ToRs) accordingly. We call on the government of Tanzania to allow the mission to take place and on UNESCO to ensure it is participatory, transparent and inclusive as required to meet human rights standards.



**READ:**

[IUCN in Tanzania and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism Deepen Strategic Partnership to Advance Conservation and Sustainable Tourism](#)



Photo: Community members protest UNESCO on World Heritage Day 2026. Credit: MISA.

## Tanzania's Last State of Conservation Report Calls for More Relocation From Ngorongoro

The [last State of Conservation \(SOC\) report](#) on Ngorongoro submitted by Tanzania is alarming. To the UNESCO recommendation that the state should “*continue engaging the local community and stakeholders to explore alternative livelihood solutions to the voluntary resettlement scheme, consistent with the policies of the Convention and relevant international norms*”, the state response is:

*“The State Party in cooperation with stakeholders continues to explore other livelihood solutions beyond traditional semi-nomadic pastoralism including, provision of land for farming and grazing for resettled individuals, market areas and small businesses.”* This confirms that the government sees no future for Maasai pastoralists in Ngorongoro and wishes to turn them into farmers or businessmen on other peoples’ lands.

Meanwhile, the President has alluded to intentions to explore mining of critical minerals from Ngorongoro. Is her intention really to protect the environment?



**READ:**

[NGORONGORO SITS ON RARE EARTH MINERALS](#) | Arusha News



Photo: Leaders and community members from Loliondo who paid for a visit to Manyara Ranch Conservancy in Monduli on 28th April 2026. Credits:?

## Kilombero Safari Hunting Company Is Pushing for New Ranch and Hunting Block in Loliondo

Loliondo already lost 1500 square kilometres of village land when it was grabbed to form Pololeti Game Reserve in 2022. Now, the remaining 2500 square kilometres are under threat of being lost by villages adjacent to Pololeti Game Reserve. The new land grabbing is being triggered by the Kilombero North Safari, which is pushing for the establishment of a conservancy ranch to allow wildlife conservation, hunting, photographic tourism and camping. This [company](#) is owned by prominent and influential figure [Rostam Aziz](#),

who is associated with the leading party Chama cha Mapinduzi and has been accused of scandalous deals.

The company officials have recently reached the District Council and village leaders for inception and organized a study [visit](#) to Manyara Ranch Conservancy in Monduli, the farm the company has secured for investment. The visit consisted of four Ward Councilors, vice chairperson of Ngorongoro District, District officials, eight village chairpersons, subvillage leaders, youths and traditional leaders. Under this model, the remaining 2500 square kilometres of land for settlement, farming,, public offices and grazing will be subjected for tourism and hunting investments imposing access restrictions. We strongly oppose this.



Photo: May 2021. Grazing in Simanjiro. Credit: MISA.

## Pastoralists are Central to Sustainable Food Systems and Ecological Resilience

Policies that restrict livestock mobility, privatise communal rangelands or convert grazing lands to agribusiness, as well as conservation or carbon-offset projects, undermine pastoralist livelihoods while intensifying conflict, poverty and environmental degradation.

At MISA, we believe that pastoralism remains one of the most climate-resilient land-use systems in drylands. Through mobility and communal rangeland management, pastoralists sustain livelihoods, supply vital meat and milk production, and maintain ecological balance in areas where crop farming is often unsustainable.

Yet, communities defending their territories face criminalisation and violence. Women pastoralists and small-scale producers, youth, and Indigenous Peoples remain excluded from decision-making processes, despite being central to food production and environmental stewardship.

We made these points on the occasion of the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development + 20 in Colombia. MISA joined forces with other social movements to advance pastoralist rights and wrote a joint statement. [ICARRD+20](#) must not be a commemorative event. It must become a turning point.



### READ:

[ICARRD+20: Joint Civil Society Statement](https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/rangelands-crossroads-indigenous-pastoralists-and-fight-mobility-land-and-climate-justice)  
<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/rangelands-crossroads-indigenous-pastoralists-and-fight-mobility-land-and-climate-justice>

**WATCH:** [Discussion at University of Dar-es-Salaam USM about land, pastoralism and conservation](#)



To contact us: [maasaiinternationalsolidarity@gmail.com](mailto:maasaiinternationalsolidarity@gmail.com)

Our website: [misasolidarity.org](http://misasolidarity.org)

To follow us on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/misasolidarity/>

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